(b if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure tamper proof seals on LPG cylinders by the Oil Companies so that consumers are not duped by dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies carry out 100 per cent re-checking of weight on a check scale after the cylinders are filled on carousel. Before delivery and loading in truck, filled cylinders are again subjected to statistical quality control to ensure that only cylinders of correct quality and quantity reach the distributors. LPG distributors are also under instructions to check every cylinder for soundness/ correct weight before delivering to consumers. Inspite of above measures, if any underweight cylinder is supplied to the consumers, the same is replaced free of cost immediately when brought to the notice of the LPG distributor/ company.

(c) There is limitation in providing tamper proof seals on LPG cylinders, as the sealing equipment has to be heat/spark proof. The improvement in sealing of LPG cylinders is a continous process and further development is taken up in consultation with LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC), Bangalore.

Targeted dealership in Uttar Pradesh

†269. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number for which target has been fixed for dealership/distributorship in Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(b) the number of interviews held by Uttar Pradesh Dealer Selection Board for dealership so far; and

(c) the number of dealers belonging to Scheduled Caste out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The setting up of dealerships of Petroleum Products is a continuous process and hence it is not possible to fix a target for the same in a given year.

(b) and (c) Consequent to formation of new Dealer Selection Boards in U.P. by the Government, the details of interviews held for selection of Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships in U.P. are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

	Total Nos.	SC-Category
Retail Outlets	217	51
LPG Agencies	264	65

Self-Sufficiency in Hydro-Carbon Sector

270. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are Government taking towards achieving self-sufficiency in the Hydro-Carbon Sector;

(b) what percentage of our requirements of Crude Oil and Natural Gas is produced annually in the country; and

(c) the details of the production for the last three years, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Given the increasing demand for petroleum products and the current level of import dependence of around 70 percent, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following steps:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first round of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 24 blocks in which works are in progress. Additionally, under the second round of NELP, PSCs have been signed on 17.7.2001 for 23 blocks.

(iii) to attract technology and investment, PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

(iv) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.